

# Seniors lead USD past Longwood

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On a night when long-range shots and free throws weren't falling on a regular basis, a pair of seniors picked up the slack.

And that leadership was precisely the difference.

Roman Gentry and Tyler Cain combined for 41 points to lead the University of South Dakota men's basketball team to a gritty 75-63 win over Longwood on Tuesday night in the DakotaDome.

In winning over a Division I independent with four returning starters from a 17-win season, the Coyotes (8-8) fought through a 2-of-10 effort on three-pointers and a 19-of-31 clip from the free throw line.

Still, USD escaped the back-and-forth contest on top.

"We didn't finish a lot of plays; left a lot of points out there," head coach Dave Boots said. "We've got to do a better job on that. They're a very quick and talented team, so we knew this would be a difficult game."

"But we're very pleased to win this one."

And in the process, the Coyotes were given a stiff test in the final tune-up before the Great West Conference season begins on Saturday at home against North Dakota.

The game was heavily contested until the final two minutes. Each time Longwood (4-14), which completed its D-I transition in 2007, appeared ready to tie the game, either Gentry or Cain were there to shut the door.

The senior duo combined to score nine of USD's final 17 points. After Longwood pulled within 59-57 with 8:45 to play, Gentry converted a layup to begin a 5-0 run for the Coyotes.

Gentry later drained a three-pointer — he had both for the Coyotes — to push

USD ahead 69-59. And from there, the lead never dipped below eight.

"They were a tough defensive team and were always up on you really tight," said Gentry, who had 21 points and seven rebounds. "We wanted to come out with energy, to get ready for the conference."

Yet, it was both teams that brought the intensity. In the first half, there were six lead changes and four ties before USD took a 32-29 lead into the halftime break.

The three-pointers that were falling against Southern Illinois University Edwardsville on Saturday were being covered by Longwood's quick defenders. USD hit just 1-of-6 perimeter shots in the opening half.

"It was hard to get open against their athleticism," Boots said. "Everything was contested; there weren't very many free looks. We've got good shooters, but it's just tough to make contested shots."

Though USD never trailed in the second half, the game was far from one-sided. The Coyotes got back-to-back layups to pull ahead 52-42 with 13:43 left, only to see the Lancers get within 54-51 three minutes later.

And then at the 8:45 mark, Longwood's Aaron Mitchell hit a reverse layup to cut the USD lead to 59-57.

"We got a little impatient on offense and they were making tough shots," Gentry said. "But we settled down and figured things out."

In the end, USD won consecutive D-I games for the first time this season, and the second time since leaving Division II. On Saturday night, the Coyotes routed SIU-Edwardsville 100-76, a day after suffering a close loss to Cornell.

"We've had some close losses at home, so we're trying to

get over the hump and get some wins," said junior point guard Kendall Cutler, who had 12 points and a game-high five assists.

The Coyotes also got eight points and five rebounds from Mitchell Bouie, while Jake Thomas and Steve Smith each scored four points.

Longwood, which was 17-14 last season, got 19 points and nine rebounds from Dana Smith. Antwan Carter had a double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds, while Aaron Mitchell scored 12 points.

USD begins Great West Conference play at home on Saturday night, with an 8 p.m. contest against rival North Dakota (2-14). The Sioux will face Utah Valley in Orem, Utah, on Thursday night before trekking to Vermillion.

"We're all excited to get that going," Gentry said. "We've had some close losses, but I feel like we're ready for the conference."

**LONGWOOD (4-14)**  
E.J. Dawson 1-5 0-0 2; Billy Robinson Jr. 4-7 0-0 8; Aaron Mitchell 5-12 2-5 12; Dana Smith 6-11 4-6 19; Kevin Swecker 0-5 0-0 0; Antwan Carter 5-15 3-3 13; Martiz Washington 2-5 0-0 6; Earl Gee II 1-3 1-2 3; Jan van der Kooij 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS 24-64 10-16 63.

**SOUTH DAKOTA (8-8)**  
Roman Gentry 7-14 5-6 21; Kendall Cutler 3-5 6-12 12; Jake Thomas 1-4 2-2 4; Tyler Cain 8-14 4-9 20; Steve Smith 1-4 2-2 4; Mitchell Bouie 4-5 0-0 8; Louie Krogman 0-3 0-0 0; Jordan Boots 0-1 0-0 0; Conrad Krutwig 3-4 0-0 6; Dustin Tetzlaff 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 27-54 19-31 75.

At The Half: USD 32, LU 29. Three-Pointers: LU 5-13 (Smith 3-4, Washington 2-5, van der Kooij 0-1), USD 2-10 (Gentry 2-3, Smith 0-1, Boots 0-1, Krogman 0-2, Thomas 0-3). Total Rebounds: USD 42 (Cain 14), LU 34 (Carter 11). Assists: USD 17 (Cutler 5), LU 14 (Gee II 5). Blocks: USD 6 (Cain 4), LU 4 (Robinson Jr. 2). Personal Fouls: LU 20, USD 12. Fouled Out: LU (Smith). A: 1,056.



South Dakota's Tyler Cain slams the ball home during the Coyotes' home game against Longwood Tuesday at the DakotaDome. (Photo by David Lias)

## THIS WEEK IN VERMILION POOL LEAGUE

by **Joe "MOJO" Reiser**

Hello folks and Happy New Year. We have seen some heavy snow, viscous cold weather and the loss of some friends and family members, but like always, the people of Vermillion some how survive and thrive and push on to the good times.

Here are the week nine standings.

- 1) Maya Janes 2 146-79 64.9 percent.
- 2) Leos 1 123-77...61.5 percent.
- 3) Char 1 135-90...60 percent.
- 4) Whimps 89-61...59.3 percent.
- 5) Maya Janes 1 127-98...56.4 percent.
- 6) Eagles 2 107-93...53.5 percent.
- 7) Char 2 102-98...51 percent.
- 8) Leos 3 100-100...50 percent.
- 9) Varsity 2 84-91...48 percent.
- 10) Careys 1 107-118...47.6 percent.
- 11) Eagles 1 83-92...47.4 percent.
- 12) Varsity 1 106-119...47.1 percent.
- 13) Leos 2 105-120...46.7 percent.
- 14) Maya Janes 3 104-121...46.2 percent.
- 15) Leos 4 96-129...42.7 percent.
- 16) Bunyans 1 93-132...41.3 percent.
- 17) Bunyans 2 92-133...40.9 percent.
- 18) Careys 2 51-99...34 percent.

So, there is the league standings. Let's take a peek at the results from week nine. The night was rough for Bunyans 1 as their team rolled into the Varsity looking for some action and action was what they got. Super sub Dean Clodfelder paced the Varsity 2 with five wins zero losses and a nine ball break. Jason "Banger" Olafson also banged out five wins and was assisted by Terry "Smiley" Bernard's four wins in a 20-5 blow out of Bunyans 1. Jeff Solomon and Jeremy Kirkpatrick each had two wins for the Bombers.

Maya Janes 2 defended home felt as the top team in the league delivered a 18-7 whipping of Careys 2. Barry "Rock-n-Roll" Brown, Brian Lambertz and Troy Nicks each had four wins for MJ2. MJ2's

other two players also had three wins. Zac Lacey was a three game winner for Careys 2.

Bad news was in store for the seasoned Leos 4 team as Char 1 rolled into Leos and BBQed Leos 4. Grill master Kase Allison smoked out five wins and was assisted by three wins from each of the other players of Char 1. Harlin "Yer jerkin' my" Durkin was a four game winner for Leos 4.

Leos 2 hit the road to the West side of Vermillion and collected a 16-9 win over Bunyans 2 at Bunyans. Jeff "Fleet" Gilbertson and Ryan Baedke each pounded out four wins for the Downtowners. Jami Baedke and Mike Hekrdle were three game winners to assist. Eric Hanson won four games while Donny Stewart and Blaine Schollerman helped the cause with two wins each for the home team.

Leos 1 defended home turf with a 16-9 besting of Maya Janes 3. Aaron "Too Bad" Baedke, Stevie Thiesen and Mark "Stick" Clark were four game winners for Leos 1. Rob Robbie Robin Roboleski rolled in three 9 balls and was robbed of the other two wins for MJ3.

Maya Janes 1 kept things in the winning way by dropping a 15-10 win on Char 2. Scott Towels was a four game

winner and got some help from Carson Kennedy, Gerit Soljic and Josh Whatyamacallin with three wins each for Maya Janes 1. Alex Baker rolled in three 9 balls for Char 2.

In beautiful downtown Burbank, Skinny and Rob were four game winners while extracting a 14-11 win over the Lettermen of the Varsity 1. Wade "True Blue" Mount was a four game winner for the Lettermen.

In the closest match of the night, Joe "MOJO" Reiser sealed off five wins and had a 9 ball break to lead Careys 1 past the Eagles 1 team. Dana "DB" Hovalt was a four game winner and collected the final win in the 25th game of the night, to push Careys 1 to a 13-12 win. Clark Lewison and Ron Johnson were three game winners for the high flying birds of prey.

"It was a real close match that went back and forth all night" commented Larry Edwards of the Eagles. "We looked to our seasoned leadership tonight," offered Luke Lacey of the Careys team, "and they really pulled us through," added Lacey.

Well, that's all for the play by play of the games. Let's see what honors the night had for it's shooters. Going 5 and 0 and receiving a "Gold Star Performance" award were Kase

Allison, Dean Clodfelder, Jason Boteranger and Yours Truly, Joe "MOJO" Reiser. The men who made 9 balls on the beak were Jerry Sommervold, Stevie Thiesen, Rob Robbie Robin Yatayata, Dean Clodfelder and "MOJO" Reiser.

So much for the awards.... the 0 and 5ers that wound up on the "Bottom of the Barrel" are Rick Haught, Curtis Mincks, Patrick Farrens, Luke Lacey, Mike Stewart, Brandon Bendover, Dan "Semi" Semmler, Collene Zea and Bobby

Langner. Congrats to the winners and so sorry to the bottom of the barrel.

The Schedule for Jan. 20 is (home team listed first) Leos 1 vs Bunyans 1. Char 1 vs Leos 3. Maya Janes 3 vs Maya Janes 2. Eagles 2 vs Leos 2. Varsity 2 vs Varsity 1. Leos 4 vs Eagles 1. Maya Janes 1 vs Careys 2. Bunyans 2 vs Char 2. Careys 1 vs Whimps.

Well, that is all I have for this week. I do want to hang my head in shame as I admit to using "Steroids" in the cal-

ender year 2009. I would like you all to know that I was not on "Steroids" when I went 5-0 and made a 9 ball on the break. Kids if you are reading this... "Steroids" is not the way to go. Don't be fooled by the results. They only wind up giving you pain in the end.

It's so good to have that off of my chest. (Just so you all know... this is what is offered as comedy from my end of things). Until next week, thanks a billion and drive safely. MOJO.

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